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## BENJAMIN LAWTON WIGGINS

In the month of April, 1889, three of the younger members of the Faculty of the University of the South, after a long conference, decided that there was a real need of a Literary Magazine, devoted to Literature and unencumbered by discussions of current events, and that they would make the venture, assisted by as many friends as could be interested. That conference led to the founding of *THE SEWANEE REVIEW*.

One of these professors was Dr. William P. Trent, now of Columbia University, New York, who became the first editor; and another was Dr. B. Lawton Wiggins, then Professor of Ancient Languages, and afterwards Vice-Chancellor of the University.

In 1893, Dr. Wiggins was the only member of the trio left at Sewanee, and for sixteen years, as representing the interests of the University, he bore the responsibility of the publication. Dr. John Bell Henneman succeeded Professor Trent as the editor and did his work with conspicuous ability; but Dr. Wiggins really carried the burden up to the very day of his untimely death, June 14, 1909.

It is most fitting, therefore, that this number of *THE REVIEW* should contain some recognition of his life and of his labours for the cause of higher education in the South.

It is not necessary, and it is hardly appropriate, that, in a sketch like this, emphasis should be laid upon Dr. Wiggins' many gifts of personal character—his refinement and courtesy, the winning charm of his manner, the irresistible attraction of his sunny brightness, his Christian kindness and thoughtfulness for others—which made for him a host of friends and gave him wonderful influence with men and women in every section and every condition of life.

It is as the head of a university which, in spite of its youth, has already played a great part in the educational development of the South, that the readers of this *REVIEW* prefer to regard him; and in this capacity—as Vice-Chancellor of the University

of the South, as an executive and man of affairs, as a lover and promoter of the highest educational ideals — he has won enduring fame.

A scholar himself, of patient and disciplined accuracy, intolerant of careless and hurried and superficial work, he strove to encourage and advance the very best in learning everywhere. His appeals and his example reached far beyond the bounds of his personal contact, and in a real way he influenced the whole country, contributing very largely to that enthusiasm for exact scholarship and wider culture, which we are thankful to say pervades, as never before, the majority of our Southern institutions of learning.

To a degree rarely equalled he regarded his life, and made it, an opportunity of service to his fellow men. The last public address he ever delivered (the substance of which is embodied in the leading article of this issue of *THE REVIEW*) was an appeal for the practical application in patriotic devotion of his Lord's words: "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world, shall keep it unto life eternal."

Believing in Sewanee and in the ideals which it represented, he gave it his entire allegiance. He died at his post. His faith never wavered. He felt that he was here because God had some service for him to render; and he had his reward. Though he did not live to see his dream fulfilled, he was not lonely nor discouraged; for he was not selfish. He worked for God.

"That low man seeks a little thing to do,  
Sees it and does it.  
This high man, with a great thing to pursue,  
Dies ere he knows it.

. . . . .

"That has the world here — should he need the next?  
Let the world mind him!  
This throws himself on God, and, unperplexed,  
Seeking shall find Him."